

We can now say the Brethren church at Williamsport, Dakota. May the little vine prove to be one of God's right-hand planting, and as one set in a fruitful hill. The Lord bless it.

A thing that is "running itself" is pretty sure to be running down hill. This is a very literal fact in the Christian world.

No reformation ever amounts to much that does not begin now.

What the average Christian wants, just at present, is not mere power, so much as more directness and more purpose in the use of the power which we already possess.

Falls City Items.

A dozen or more of members from this congregation attended the lovefeast of the Brethren held in the Pony Creek congregation, Kansas, on the evening of May 21st. The feast was well attended by the home congregation and there was also a small delegation headed by sisters Dora Cummer and Anna Cober, from Labette, present. These enjoyed the feast perhaps a little better than any others because they have been deprived of worshipping under their own vine and fig tree at Labette.

From what we could learn from these sisters there should be a Brethren church organized at Labette. The German Baptists, it seems, have had trouble at that place on account of the Progresso-Conservative and the Conservo-Progressive elements being too intimately associated together for peace and comfort. So their elders divided the church not according to metes and bounds geographically but according to the degree of loyalty existing among the members to the mandatory-obligatory laws of annual meeting. This action by the "adjoining elders" has an appearance of drifting towards congregationalism. It is like organizing a free Republic within an absolute Monarchy.

At this writing, May 25th, quite a large number of both Brethren and German Baptists, are preparing to go to Ottawa to attend the great annual meeting.

Our own lovefeast will be on the fourth of June. The German Baptist lovefeast, under the direction of Elder Berkeybile, was slimly attended this spring.

Brother Lafayette Messler's family has been visited by affliction. His oldest son has been seriously ill for the past few weeks.

The families of brethren L. Johnson and F. Shafer have also been severely afflicted with measles.

This rather common and sickness generally considered very mild in its character, and not fatally dangerous, has this year, in this locality, been the immediate cause of death in a few families. A little grand child of Bro. Shafer's was one of the victims of this disease.

E. L. Y.

Church in Dakota.

On Sunday afternoon, May 22nd, the cozy parlor of brother John Kurtz was occupied by a small fragment of the Brethren church, by previous agreement, and after brief consultation the following lengthy sentence was created and signed by one dozen persons, several being unavoidably absent.

"EMMONS COUNTY, DAKOTA TER.
May 22nd, 1887.

We, the undersigned brethren and sisters, covenant together this day to perfect an organiza-

tion to be known as the Brethren church at Williamsport, Dak., adopting the New Testament as our only and all sufficient rule of faith and practice in all matters pertaining to salvation as declared by the Dayton convention wherein the Bible was adopted as the creed of the church thereby reaffirming its ancient principles as founded by Christ and the Apostles and practiced by the brethren prior to the creation of the minutes of the German Baptist annual meeting."

Bro. John Kurtz was elected Treasurer and Sister W. H. Worst Secretary of the organization. Nothing was said about a preacher, so we take it for granted.

The best wishes of all Ashland's Dakotans are extended to the ex-bachelor editor and his bride. May the future be golden with joy, happiness and prosperity.

No, I do not expect to reunite with the German Baptists. That was a mistake. But I want it understood that not one single human mandate will ever bind me whether enacted by the Brethren or any one else.

J. H. WORST.

Terra Alta, W. Va.

Last night I arrived home safe from a short visit that I was called upon to make to the Prosperity church. Wirt Co., W. Va. I found the brethren and sisters in Christian love and union. Communion services were held on Monday evening, the 16th. It was an enjoyable occasion and the best of order prevailed. It was affirmed that a larger concourse of people never before had assembled at Prosperity church. One was added to the church by baptism. We are trying in W. Va. to work up a Home Mission fund upon the gospel principle of giving as the Lord has prospered us. The Lord delights in free-will offerings, much more than in extorted ones that are wrested from the body by ecclesiastical legislation. If a Christian people are made to realize their duty, and appreciate the privilege of giving to the Lord's cause a work will be done. We submitted the Mission cause to the church at Prosperity, and the response was a noble one. From present indications we hope to be able to begin work in about one month from above date. We are now ready to hear from members that are living at out-of-the-way places where there is a probability of doing a good work. We hope the Brethren church throughout W. Va. will not wait for us to make any further call for help in this work. The Lord bless the effort.

S. W. WILT.

May 19, 1887.

From Lathrop, Cal.

As indicated in my last notice to EVANGELIST, Bro. Plummer, of the San Francisco church, and myself, commenced, May 1st, at the Frederick school house, near Ripon, a short protracted effort, closing the evening of the 7th, an account of which, no doubt, has or will be given by Bro. Frederick. On the evening of the 8th, we commenced the meeting at Lathrop, closing Sunday evening, the 15th, with a communion service. Bro. Plummer did the preaching and to say that he did well would not be saying too much. He has made a host of friends here, and we

still hope to have the privilege of hearing him more frequently in the future.

There was a good attendance of members at the Lathrop meeting, and I believe all thought it good to meet together. Especially do we remember our Altamont brethren and sisters' visit at this meeting. Two full wagon loads came, driven by Bro. Shanks and Perret, and when we consider that they were in the midst of haying, we must say "well done, good and faithful servants." Three were baptized, two coming from Altamont. The other was our nearest neighbor, Mrs. Raynor, Asst. Sup't. of our S. S.

Bro. Beer and P. J. Brown will rejoice to learn of Sister Reynor casting her lot in with the Brethren here. As they were both acquainted with her.

At a council meeting, May 14, the members agreed to hold their communion service every three months here in the future. The scattered members and all will therefore understand this arrangement and accept invitation to be with us at our love feasts and enjoy the pleasure of communing together more frequently. The next communion service is to be the 3rd Sunday evening in Aug. We also desired to have our young Bro., S. J. Holinger represent us in "National Convention" of the Brethren in Ind., Sept. 15th. We rejoice that the Lord is dealing kindly with us.

J. P. WOLFE.

Lathrop, Cal.

Prosperity, W. Va.

Our communion services are among the things of the past. Bro. S. W. Wilt, of Terra Alta, came to our aid the 7th of this month, and preached each evening until the 16th, when we held our communion service, which was an enjoyable feast. The attendance was small during the first few evenings, owing to the inclemency of the weather, and it being a very busy time with the farmers trying to get out a crop. But as the meeting progressed the interest increased until the people could not be accommodated for want of room. But as is generally the case, the meeting closed too soon. One member was received by baptism and we think lasting impressions for good were made on the minds of many who were almost persuaded to be Christians.

As there is a move on foot to have a missionary in the field of W. Va., to go among the isolated members where they have no ministers, and also to preach the doctrine in places where it has not been heard, to organize churches, etc., and as S. W. Wilt has expressed a willingness to devote his time to the work, we think that it is the duty of all churches in the western part of the state to take hold of the work and move it along.

Bro. Wilt has proved himself a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, and we think he is the right man in the right place.

He made many warm friends during his short stay at Prosperity. The church here is making an effort to do her part in the missionary effort.

S. L. SHOWALTER.

An Appeal.

Before stating the nature of my caption, I want to state a few plain facts relative to it. In

the division of the church the wealthy members remained with the German Baptists, whereas those that now comprise a large part of the Brethren church left of their own accord, (were not expelled,) we have no manner of claim on the church property. This leaves us entirely without a church building. At present we worship in an old dilapidated chapel for which we must pay quite a high rent. We realize that if the church here is to live and grow we must have a church building of our own. At our quarterly council in April, a building committee was appointed. Among the various measures considered to raise money, it has been decided to make a general appeal through the EVANGELIST. As secretary of the building committee I now appeal to every one that feels any interest in the prosperity of the Brethren church in Philadelphia to give us a helping hand. We will accept anything that we can turn into money. Every donation of twenty cents and upwards will be acknowledged, and the name of the donor placed on the record kept for that purpose, the same to be preserved in the archives of the church.

Parties not disposed to make a donation can assist us greatly by purchasing from the Brethren Tract Society, 2720 N. 8th, st., Philadelphia, the book entitled "Earth, Sea and Sky," price \$2.75. This is a valuable work and is well-worth the money asked for it. It is sold entirely in the interest of the church building fund. Now brethren help us.

The ground to build a church on will cost about four thousand dollars and a building, such as we need, will cost about that much more.

As soon as we have two thousand we propose to commence operations. May the Lord hasten the day when we shall have that amount.

Eld. J. D. McFaden is chairman and William Kolb, Sr., treasurer of the building committee.

JACOB C. CASSEL, Secretary.
1207 Columbia Ave.

Painterville, Pa.

May 19.—I have made no report to the EVANGELIST from the Maitland church for a long time. Perhaps, under present circumstances, I will be able to give the readers of our church paper more news in the future.

The church house has already been noted by Bro. Replogle as to its dedication. Meeting continued over a week, during which time three were received into the church by relation.

We have here a convenient little church erected to the worship of God, but sorry to say there still remains a debt to which there must be a response. Our circumstances are limited, and it we would receive communications in the way of V's or X's, it would certainly surprise some one very agreeably.

The meeting closed with communion service. It being the most solemn occasion the writer witnessed for a long time; also good order prevailed during the services.

Would further say we are glad for such men as Bro. R. Z. Replogle to come amongst us. The Jews had banded together at one time to not eat until they would

accomplish a certain act. There is also a little band at Maitland, I do not think they are Jews, but they seem determined to stop the Bible alone doctrine. For this we commend our Bro. that was with us. "He brought grit and grace with him that seen him through" and may the Lord bless him wherever he goes.

J. BRINDLE.

Indiana Chronicles.

I have been in the field most of the time since about the first of January. Since that time I have held protracted meetings at Oakville, Bunker Hill, Akron, Roann, College Corner, and am at present trying to tell the story of the cross in the Huntington congregation. The Lord has blessed our efforts so far with an immediate ingathering at each of the afore-said places save Akron, and that, we understand, has since through the labors of brother Heeter began to yield its fruits. What can be done here at Huntington at this time the Lord only knows.

I remained at home some days after the Roann meeting, then began at College Corner, near Somerset. Here we had a hard struggle to get the work rightly started. Brother Fitzgerald did a good work there last fall and winter, adding, according to the church record, about 17 to the 4 who resided there previously, and organizing them, making a church of 21 when our recent work began, of which the result has been given through the EVANGELIST. Owing to the interest of this meeting towards its close, I could not reach Bunker Hill, on Sunday the 8th to preach the funeral of Miss Zota, for which I was sorry, as the young lady had made the request on her death bed that I should preach her funeral. (Of course, as I had not set the time myself for the funeral to be preached, I felt excusable under the circumstances.) Then too, there were several to be baptized who were received as candidates for baptism at last winter's revival at that place, some of whom had made a like request. But we were glad to learn on our arrival on Monday the 9th that brother Fitzgerald had preached the funeral on the previous day and had also baptized 6 of those candidates, and had in addition to that, made and baptized another disciple and restored one to former relation. The Lord bless the work.

The communion that evening was a pleasant one. Here we communed with a number of people who communed the first time in their lives.

Went home from here on the 10th, and to Oakville on the 11th and remained and tried to preach until the 16th. Had good congregations (only when it rained) and the Lord added to the church daily after the 12th, such as believed and confessed the Lord.

The Oakville congregation numbers 90 now, and their Sunday School, under the supervision of brother Squire Holsinger, is a credit to the place and church. The house will also soon be ready for dedication.

J. H. SWIHART.

May 26th, 1887.

Married.

HURLEY-REPLOGLE—May 15th, by Rev. W. L. Spanogle, Mr. Wm. Hurley to Miss Emma Replogle, all of New Enterprise, Pa. May 24th, by the same, Mr. Samuel Wisler to Miss Lizzie Frederick, all of Blair Co., Pa.